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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,802	10/02/2000	Yukiko Inoue	M2047-6	3619

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EXAMINER

PHILIPPE, GIMS S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

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DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/677,802

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Gims S Philippe

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,10,11,14 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,7-9,12,13,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a first action in response to application no. 09/677,802 filed on October 2nd 2000 in which claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 3-4, 7-9, 12-13, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagai (US Patent no. 5,642,239).

Regarding claims 3, 12, and 16, Nagai discloses a method and apparatus for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising a field DCT encoding block number counting portion for counting a number of blocks that have undergone field DCT when an image is a frame structure image (See Nagai col. 8, lines 38-49), and a scene change judging portion for comparing the number of blocks with a threshold and judging a scene change that exists between fields (See Nagai col. 6, lines 24-43, col. 7, lines 30-36).

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As per claims 4, 13, and 17, Nagai discloses a method and apparatus for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising a scene change judging portion for judging a scene change (See Nagai col. 7, lines 49-67), and a scene change interval retrieving portion for retrieving scene changes that exist at a start and an end point of a specified interval among scene changes detected by the scene change judging portion (See Nagai col. 5, lines 55-67, col. 6, lines 1-15).

As per claim 9, Nagai discloses a method for detecting a scene change in a compressed moving picture comprising inputting a compressed moving picture in which field structure images and frame structure images exist together, and detecting a scene change in the inputted compressed moving picture (See fig. 8, and col. 7, lines 30-54).

As per claim 7, most of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the above rejection of claim 3. In addition, Nagai further provides using a threshold as a criterion on the basis of a maximum quantity variation in order to determine a scene change (See Nagai col. 7, lines 14-29).

As per claim 8, most of the limitations of this claim have been noted in the above rejection of claim 4. In addition, Nagai further provides using a threshold as a criterion on the basis of a maximum quantity variation in order to determine a scene change (See Nagai col. 7, lines 14-29).

3. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-11, and 14-15 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited reference taken individually or in combination fails to teach or suggest detecting a scene change including the step of *“extracting a feature quantity based on top and bottom double data in vertical direction of an image with respect to a field structure image when a judgment result of the image structure judging portion is a frame structure, and a scene change judging portion for judging a scene change by the use of a quantity variation calculated by a data extraction comparing portion”*.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Soda et al. (US Patent no. 5,638,124) teaches video signal processing apparatus having an image inserting and extracting circuit for inserting an image into or extracting an image from video signal based on a detecting result of a motion detecting circuit.

Honjo (US Patent no. 5319468) teaches image signal recording and reproducing system with use of bandwidth compression coding.

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Honjo (US Patent no. RE37112 E) teaches image signal recording and reproducing system with use of bandwidth compression coding.

Saunders (US Patent no. 6415059) teaches data compression.

Yonemitsu et al. (US Patent no. 5461420) teaches apparatus for coding and decoding a digital video signal derived from a motion picture film source.

Kawasaki et al. (US Patent no. 6343153) teaches coding compression method and coding compression apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S Philippe whose telephone number is (703) 305-1107. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-7:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris S Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

GSP

February 23, 2004